



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

December 22, 1997

Mr. Tracy Calabrese
Assistant City Attorney
City of Houston
Legal Department
P.O. Box 1562
Houston, Texas 77251-1562

OR97-2821

Dear Mr. Calabrese:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Open Records Act, chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 111019.

The City of Houston (the "city") received a request for all invoices received for charges related to work performed on the "Ed Blume" lawsuit, which involves the redrawing of city council district lines. You state that the city is making the requested information available to the requestor, with the exception of certain attorney fee bills. You assert that portions of these fee bills are excepted from required public disclosure based on section 552.107(1) of the Government Code.

Section 552.107(1) states that information is excepted from required public disclosure if

it is information that the attorney general or an attorney of a political subdivision is prohibited from disclosing because of a duty to the client under the Texas Rules of Civil Evidence, the Texas Rules of Criminal Evidence, or the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

Attorney fee bills may be withheld under section 552.107(1) only if they reveal client confidences or attorney advice. Open Records Decision No. 589 (1991). The application of section 552.107(1) to attorney fee bills must be determined on a case-by-case basis. *Id.* We have reviewed the submitted attorney fee bills and have marked the information therein that

may be withheld from disclosure pursuant to section 552.107(1). The remainder of the requested information must be released to the requestor.

We are resolving this matter with this informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue under the facts presented to us in this request and may not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have questions about this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael A. Pearle".

Michael A. Pearle
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

MAP/ch

Ref.: ID# 111019

Enclosures: Marked documents

cc: Mr. Jeff Watts
P.O. Box 6602
Kingwood, Texas 77325-6602
(w/o enclosures)